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Dymaxion Earth as Model

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in voce **a.Fuller**

Abstract

Buckminster Fuller's projections and domes as explicit, buildable world models—design artifacts that fold and unfold like pedagogical maps.

I. One island, many panels

Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxion map unfolds the sphere onto a polyhedron to reduce areal distortion and to picture continents as **one continuous island**. The design is polemical: it refuses the unconscious geopolitical centering baked into many projections. As a world model, it is explicitly **artifactual**—a map you can cut, fold, and argue about on a table.

II. Domes and tensegrity

Fuller's geodesic domes distribute stress across networks, turning material limits into global strength. Read epistemically, they are metaphors for **distributed evidence**: no single strut carries the whole claim; coherence is systemic.

III. Craft and pedagogy

Fuller insisted on design science—models you can **build** rather than only admire. That stance aligns with simulation-first education: learners who manipulate projections and structures discover where their intuitions break.

IV. Limits

Fuller's techno-optimism requires critique: not every problem is a packaging problem; justice is not solved by better globes alone. Still, his insistence that representations be **revisable tools** rather than frozen icons remains timely.

V. Conclusion

Dymaxion Earth is a case study in Volume 3's theme: the map is a built object that shapes how we see the territory—and can be redesigned when our duties change.

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